

Application No. 10/718,463
Amdt. dated January 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 29, 2004

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a crankcase for a small engine comprising the steps of casting a crankcase having a crankcase chamber, a first and a second bearing recess at [an] the end of said crankcase chamber, [each recess] each of said recesses being defined by a cylindrical sidewall having a plurality of rounded radially inwardly directed flutes formed thereon, and pressing a roller bearing into each recess so that the flutes in the first bearing recess are offset an arcuate distance with respect to the flutes in the second bearing recess.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a crankcase according to claim 17, wherein the flutes have an arcuate dimension, are evenly spaced about the cylindrical sidewalls, and are separated by arcuate sidewall portions.

19. Cancelled

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a crankcase according to claim [19] 18, wherein said arcuate distance corresponds to said arcuate dimension.

21. (Original) A method of manufacturing a crankcase according to claim 20, wherein the number of balls in said ball bearing do not equal the number of flutes in a bearing recess.

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22. (Original) A method of manufacturing a crankcase according to claim 20, wherein the number of balls in said ball bearing are greater than the number of flutes in a bearing recess.

23. (Original) A method of manufacturing a crankcase according to claim 20, wherein there are eight balls in a ball bearing and seven flutes in a bearing recess.

24. (Currently Amended I) A method of manufacturing a crankcase according to claim 17, wherein each roller bearing is pressed into each recess until it seats on [said] a toroidal base.

Claims 25-36 Cancelled